

Facts about ethanol as an alternative fuel:

- Ethanol is RENEWABLE
- Ethanol is an additive used in gasoline, which results in a cleaner burning fuel with a higher octane.
- Corn is the primary feedstock for ethanol production. In 2005, about 13% of the nation's corn crop was utilized in ethanol. Ethanol can also be made from other "biomass" which includes; grain sorghum, wheat straw, rice, switch grass, vegetable and forestry waste, and other organic matter.
- Ethanol adds oxygen to gasoline, which yields a better level of combustion, reducing the level of toxic vehicle emissions. It also reduces our dependence on imported oil and increases America's fuel supply, which bring cost down.
- A new blend of fuel rapidly becoming a major player in the fuel industry is E85 (85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gasoline). There are more than 5 million vehicles capable of burning E85 in the US, called flexible fuel vehicles. Owners may burn E85 and regular unleaded with no harm done to an engine. Every major automaker in the world approves the use of E-10 unleaded (10% ethanol and 90% unleaded gasoline) under warranty of their engines.
 - Ethanol used as a blend in gasoline reduces emissions produced by vehicles.
 - Carbon monoxide reduced by as much as 30%
 - Volatile organic compounds reduced by as much as 12%
 - Toxic emissions reduced by 30%
 - Particulate matter emissions reduced by more than 25%
- The U.S. imports about 60% of the oil we use, and by 2025, that percentage is expected to be over three-quarters of our need. Increasing the amount of ethanol in our nations fuel supply reduces our dependence on foreign oil and replaces it with a renewable fuel that our farmers can grow and our companies can produce.
- One acre of corn can produce enough ethanol to run a car 72,000 miles on E10
- By 2010, the US ethanol production could displace the equivalent of 311,000 barrels of imported crude oil
- In 2005, the production of ethanol consumed 1.43 billion bushels of corn
- Ethanol is the highest performance fuel on the market, with an octane rating of 113

Note: Much of the increased interest in ethanol as a vehicle fuel is due to its ability to replace gasoline from imported oil. E85 also provides important reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Using E85 also reduces carbon monoxide emissions and provides significant reductions in emissions of many harmful toxics, including benzene, a known human carcinogen. However, E85 also increases emissions of acetaldehyde--a toxic pollutant. EPA is conducting additional analysis to expand our understanding of the emissions impacts of E85.

